



Innovation: Powered by Teamwork

Day: Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Session: 1:45 – 3:00 pm

Room: Aztec B

Presenters:

Donna Campbell – Donna.Campbell@azed.gov

Director of Professional Development

Arizona Department of Education

Virginia Stodola – Virginia.Stodola@azed.gov

LEA Improvement Specialist

Arizona Department of Education

Session Description:

Can schools be innovative? Not unless the educators share a mindset that makes the impossible possible. Learn what it takes to foster the kind of culture in which this shared value thrives. You'll take a snapshot assessment of your readiness for innovation, identify personal and institutional barriers to risking innovation, describe the key characteristics of the collaborative culture that innovation requires, and decide what steps you'll take to develop communities for innovation in your school and district.

How the session addresses Innovation:

The urgency of meeting much higher expectations for student performance means that educators schoolwide must be able to innovate—develop new and refined practices that address student learning needs and improve performance. The Innovation Network, an international membership organization, defines innovation as "PEOPLE implementing ideas that create new value." Their mission: "Building Communities for Innovation." Both concepts are rooted in the understanding that organizational culture is the "playing field" for all innovation projects and activities. Creating a climate that is fertile for the seeds of ideas and solutions to grow is the biggest challenge facing would-be innovators. This session addresses what has been learned through the Professional Development Leadership Academy (PDLA) and research on Professional Learning Teams/Communities about what it takes to create such a climate for educators.

Presenter Information:

Donna Campbell coordinates ADE and county efforts to redefine professional development to ensure it makes a real difference for educators and students. In that role, she directs the Professional Development Leadership Academy, a capacity-building program designed to help schools distribute leadership and use professional learning as a key strategy for educational improvement. She also facilitates the work of a cross-Divisional work team to operationalize the NSDC Standards for Staff Development throughout the agency. Prior to joining the ADE, Donna served as Manager of Quality Teaching and Learning for the Arizona Education Association.

Virginia Stodola, is a LEA Improvement Education Specialist, Arizona Department of Education. Virginia works to improve the systems and structures of LEAs in improvement under NCLB guidelines. Concentrating on the five LEA Standards and Rubrics: Leadership; Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development; Assessment; Culture and Climate; and Fiscal Management, Virginia is able to use her previous experience in establishing professional learning communities to promote job-embedded, continuous professional development within LEAs throughout Arizona. She has worked as a mentor/coach for new and veteran teachers and has given numerous conferences on professional learning communities, effective instructional strategies, and integrated instruction.

Session Handouts:

[Powered by Teamwork Handouts](#)

[7 Dimensions of Innovations](#)

[Developing a Culture of Relationships](#)